

EXHIBIT #VI.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Stephen L. Bowen, Commissioner

DATE: June 12, 2013

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Maine Rule Chapter 132 (Maine's *Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction*)

STATEMENT OF FACT:

This chapter outlines Maine's *Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction* pursuant to Title 20-A Section 6208 and Section 6209. These standards describe the state's performance expectations for students across all eight content areas and guide instructional in public education in Maine.

The revisions for English language arts and mathematics reflect the performance expectations developed through the national Common Core State Standards initiative. Effective immediately following rule making these standards shall inform instruction K-12 for English Language Arts and mathematics. In April of 2011 the state adopted comparable accountability standards for English Language Arts and mathematics into Maine Rule Chapter 131 (Maine' Federal, State, and Local Accountability Standards). These state assessments, used for federal accountability in reading and mathematics, are aligned to Maine Rule Chapter 131 and reflect all aspects of the Common Core.

In addition to the new standards for English language arts and mathematics that the state is adopting into Maine Rule Chapter 132, the state is also adopting new standards for science. The revisions for science reflect the performance expectations developed through the national Next Generation Science Standards initiative. These standards shall inform instruction K-12 for science. The 2013-2014 school year will provide time for schools to become acquainted with the new standards. During the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 academic years schools will implement the new science standards. In 2016-2017 the state will have full implementation of the new science standards. The state projects the adoption of a science assessment that is fully aligned to the new standards not before, the 2016-2017 school year. Until the adoption of a new assessment, the state will continue to align the MeCAS Assessment for science to the science standards of the 2007 *Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Maine DOE recommends that the State Board of Education vote to move forward with rule making in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedure Act to adopt the proposed science revisions into Rule Chapter 132

The Maine DOE also recommends that the State Board of Education, act on the motion made during the May meeting to move forward with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedure Act to adopt the proposed changes for English language arts and mathematics into Rule Chapter 132.